

Testimony of Evelyn Miller  
**In Support of HB 5473 AN ACT CONCERNING ACTIONS TO RECOVER  
DAMAGES FOR THE SEXUAL ABUSE, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OR  
SEXUAL ASSAULT OF A MINOR**  
Judiciary Committee – March 17, 2010

My name is Evelyn Miller. I am a survivor of incest, beatings, and rape. I come from a family of eleven, six sisters and four brothers. I was molested by all of my brothers throughout my whole childhood starting when I was four years old. At the age of nine my father wanted oral sex. My mother's role in my life was to know what was going on and do nothing. At the age of nine, when she found out about my father, I was called a slut and whore and got a beating. She liked using a razor strap to beat me almost daily.

The system failed me more than once. When I was a teenager, I tried to commit suicide to end the horror. At this time, I told my guidance counselor at school. It was my first time talking about the abuse. But seeing that my family was well known in the town, my mother told him that I was a liar, and he believed her so nothing was done.

I grew up, managed to live, got married, and had two children, a boy and a girl. When my daughter was three, one of the brothers that molested me molested her. It took almost a year to come to terms with what happened to my daughter. Thru this year I was dealing with the failure of being a mother. I was supposed to protect my children. I was also dealing flashbacks, night and day terrors. And fear. Fear of the fact that people would know how dirty I was. Fear that no one would believe me. Fear that I would be alone in this. When I finally was able to come forward, there was nothing I could do for my daughter.

When I went to prosecute for what had happen to me to try and stop it from ever happening again, I couldn't do anything legally. The statue of limitations at the time was only two years after my 18th birthday, and I was in my early 20's. The system failed me again, and because of the fact that there was no help, I could do nothing to stop this man from molesting other children. I could not protect any of them.

Most people don't deal with being molested until they are well into their adulthood. You try your best to block it out so you can function on a day to day basis.

Molestation is a murder of the soul. The child in us that is supposed to bring joy to our adulthood was never there. The trust that you have as an innocent child is never there. The self esteem is never there. We live in a dark hole which is not easy to get out of without help. When we finally get strong enough to come out of that dark hole, we need to heal as much as possible. We need the system to help us. We need the system to work with us, not against us.

I know in my case if the system worked with me instead of against me, others would not have gone thru what my daughter or I had to go thru. With me coming from a family of eleven, just think of how many nephews and nieces have already gone thru this, and are

just starting to come forward. They deserve justice whenever they decide to come forward, even if it takes longer than the thirty years allowed under Connecticut law.

Please work with us and not against us. Support HB 5473 and help survivors seek justice when they are ready to do so.

Evelyn Miller, Survivor

[EVILTEEZER@aol.com](mailto:EVILTEEZER@aol.com)